









same smile on his lips as when he resided in Tonkin, and he will again pronounce a grand discourse in which we shall be told that there are no more pirates in Tonkin. Some months ago M. de Lanesan repeated the same thing to the son of M. Carnot. The latter was astonished to see the day after, blinding villages and to hear firing at the very gates of Phu-lang-thong. Three officers killed, one wounded and from 50 to 60 men hors de combat is the bill for August. There are not only the Chinese pirates to fight against, but also the Chinese troops, well armed and equipped, who are hurled against Tonkin by the mandarins who desire nothing better than a war of extermination. To cope with pirates and regular Chinese troops, the French troops in Tonkin are totally inadequate, and M. de Lanesan, by way of economy, has made matters worse by sending home troops that are badly needed here. Not a transport or steamer leaving Haiphong but was crowded with soldiers going home. The result was not long to be awaited, and the situation is daily becoming more critical.

The French will eventually succeed, no doubt, in overcoming their difficulties; but it will cost them dear. It will require good military government, and the French troops in Tonkin are not composed of politicians, who are anything but administrators there is no hope. It is a little war, but nevertheless, it is a war, and we cannot conduct a successful expedition without seasoned troops well disciplined and officers who know their profession.

The rice crop (second crop) appears to be lost in many provinces which have been subject to more than usual severe inundations. In this respect there is one point to note, viz., the neglect of the Directors of Public Works to repair and embankments which play so important a role in the rice culture of the delta; hence the disastrous nature of the inundations. Even Ha Noi itself has been seriously threatened by the inundations of this year, and the labour of the *ligions d'Annamites* has alone saved it. If Ha Noi is so ill protected, one can well imagine the state of the interior where an engineer never visits, no matter how needed his presence may be, to attend to dams and embankments. It appears that the news comes from the coal fields of Yen-bai, along the Red River. That which was needed for Tonkin has been found—an excellent coal. Mixed with other coal it burns well. The coal of Hongay, Dongrien and Kebao is too close-burning (malgre). It burns with difficulty and to obtain satisfactory results it is necessary to mix with it the Australian or Japanese product. The coal of the Red River region, except the few districts mentioned, is said to be little inferior to the Cardiff product.

It is, indeed, a pity to see a country like Tonkin so rich, capable of great development and a marvelous industrial future, making absolutely no progress owing to the blunders perpetrated by the men the French Government insist in using as administrators. A military administration is the only thing that can redeem Tonkin. Military administrators there are, but they will not undertake the work which is the guarantee of their tenure of office, and so the instability of our Government prevents them from accepting a position where they would be of such great service to their country.—*Star Free Press Cor.*

#### THE ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION OF CHOLERA.

Surgeon-General W. Robt. Cornish, R.C.M., writes an important paper in the *New Review* on "The Origin and Diffusion of Cholera." His words are very reasonable, and the subject extracted from the article will doubtless be perused by our readers with special interest. He says—

It is curious to find how ready European nations are to attempt the enforcement of quarantine against their neighbours whenever cholera is on the move, in complete forgetfulness of the fact that no system of military or sanitary "cordons" between one country and another united by land has ever been successful in keeping out the intruder. The system is the cause of intense suffering and annoyance to a large number of innocent and helpless people, and is more effectual than Mrs. Partridge's mop against the advance of the Atlantic. Recent developments of this absurd custom, including the sprinkling of lime, the fumigation of streets, and the closing of railway stations, are simply ludicrous. It cannot be too strongly urged that land quarantine, whatever may be said in favour of the sea variety, is simply impossible to maintain with the least efficiency. In India, with ample military aid at hand, we have tried over and over again to keep certain cantonments free, but so far as can be ascertained, without the smallest success. The strength of a chain is in the weakest link. The most of the link of the sanitary cordons coming under the present writer's experience have been uncomparably weak.

It is often said by foreigners that India ought to make an effort to keep cholera within its own domains for "home consumption," and that its exportation abroad is a great evil. There is no doubt some basis of truth in these taunts, but the answer is that India is slowly advancing in the manner of sanitary provision, and would advance more rapidly if the latest and most advanced of the governed led in the same direction as the wishes of Government. Already many of the large towns are making provision for water supply and drainage on the European system, in preference to their old arrangements. All these things cost money, and Indian municipalities are poor, but money is not the only difficulty. The great bulk of the people prefer to be let alone, and have no belief whatever in sanitary principles. They are for the most part fatalists. In "Karma," or the fore-ordaining of their fates. Should cholera or other sickness fall upon them, "it is their fate," and discussion or reasoning on the causes is closed. With a people so conservative, progress in practical sanitation must be exceedingly slow.

So far as Government legislation goes, the provision for sanitary needs in the Municipal and Local Boards Acts is quite half a century in advance of the general opinion and the intelligence of the people. Every year sees some advance, the people are becoming better educated in general knowledge, and the principles of hygiene are taught in all Government schools. But it will take many years of steady progress before the Indian populations are sufficiently impressed with the necessity of making some sacrifice for the preservation of their own and their neighbours' health. There is further this mysterious epidemic of cholera, that the germs of the disease seem to be bred in the soil of the huge alluvial deltas, and that this reproduction of the bacillus or contagium probably goes on independently of the agency of man or of animals. Floods and drought alternate over thousands of miles of country, and the control of the generation of cholera seems to be quite hopeless. It is satisfactory to notice that even within the epidemic area, there are places where the ravages of cholera have been much mitigated. In Calcutta, for instance, which has been supplied with good filtered water, the cholera mortality has sensibly decreased of late years, and in many of the larger towns and military and civil stations the same result has followed on the introduction of sanitary measures. The improvement would be more marked than it

actually is if the people were alive to their best interests. In Calcutta, for instance, although the municipal authorities have provided excellent and abundant supplies of drinking water, and standpipes convenient of access, there are thousands of conservative Hindus who persist in drawing their supplies from the open and foul tanks about their homes.

There is a very curious superstition influencing native conduct in regard to the use of water. The belief is that water purifies everything it touches, without receiving any contamination in return, and this deep-rooted belief accounts in a large measure for the general carelessness of the people in regard to water. On one occasion when I was Sanitary Commissioner at Madras, I had, after inspection, recommended the Municipal Commissioners to set aside certain tanks and wells on the outskirts of the town for drinking supplies. On my next visit of inspection I was proudly informed that the Commissioners had acceded to my recommendation, and had placed watchmen over the sources of supply to see that the water was not fouled. I expressed my pleasure to the native Commissioners, who took me to see the "improvement." The watchmen were there certainly, but immediately under his nose in the shallow margin of the tank there stood some six or eight women washing the dirty linen of their households. Neither the Commissioners nor the watchman had any idea that the washing of foul linen in the tank would do the water any harm.

On another occasion I had to make an official report on the water supply of an important town in the south of India, at a time when cholera was severely raging among the people. My particular attention was drawn to a "hot tank," which the principal temple, in which thousands of residents and pilgrims daily washed their bodies and clothes, and afterwards drank of the water. The surface of this water was covered about half an inch thick with a green vegetable scum, and it stank abominably, being full of animal and vegetable matter, living and dead. The water would have been sweet enough but for the scum which it was put in the washing of the bodies and clothes of the people, for the scum was the sandy soil of a river bank, which acted as a natural filter, but it was in reference to this water that the managing Brahmins of the temple propounded to me the native belief that water could receive no contamination. I was able to demonstrate to them a very dangerous degree of organic impurity, and they afterwards went to the expense of pumping out and cleaning the tank; but as they adopted no precautions to prevent future fouling, the water was just as bad six months after the cleaning as before.

The incidents show some of the difficulties attending sanitary reform in Eastern countries. They are common to Eastern civilization, and one country is no better or worse than another. In India there has been the beginning of sanitary reform, though much yet remains to be done. In other countries I am not sure that any beginning has been made. Until very considerable progress has been effected in these matters, not only in India but also in Persia, Arabia, and Asiatic Russia, it is quite certain that cholera will continue to make its way to Europe. But when the pestilence does come, it is pretty certain to find some weak places in our sanitary harness, even in this country of ours, which has set an example to all other nations in sanitary provision for the people.

#### SHIPPING LOSSES IN 1891.

The following tables were compiled from the reports of "Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping."

Country.	Percentage of loss.	Percentage of loss.	Percentage of loss.
United Kingdom	2.43	2.30	5.23
British Colonies	1.90	1.98	4.11
America (U.S.)	1.08	0.94	4.41
Austria	0.86	0.40	5.04
Denmark	0.86	0.40	2.81
Dutch	1.10	0.72	4.54
French	1.47	1.73	6.35
German	1.08	1.95	5.00
Italian	1.38	1.82	2.72
Norwegian	2.74	3.41	5.95
Russian	2.09	4.17	2.14
Spanish	1.53	1.01	1.15
Swedish	0.40	0.60	4.37

Other countries five losses European, of the aggregate of 2,814 tons; Asiatic six, of 4,890 tons; and Central America three of 1,447 tons. The percentage of loss cannot be estimated as the tonnage and number of vessels is unknown.

Other countries twenty-two losses European, of 6,894 tons; Asiatic one of 495 tons; Central America twenty-three, of 9,354 tons.

During the period mentioned (the year 1891), 233 steamers and 854 sailing vessels were lost, condemned, or missing, as follows—

Country.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.
United Kingdom	140	175
British Colonies	16	81
America (United States)	5	128
Austria	—	11
Denmark	2	18
Holland	2	16
France	8	51
Germany	16	39
Italy	13	174
Norway	5	20
Spain	6	6
Sweden	2	42
Other Countries	14	47

The tonnage lost was, in steamers, 278,850 gross tons, or 186,685 net; and in sailing vessels, 371,095 tons.

Country.	Steam Tons.	Sailing Tons.
United Kingdom	188,527	94,385
British Colonies	9,236	34,423
America (United States)	5,572	53,555
Austria	—	4,048
Denmark	688	2,506
Holland	1,779	8,950
France	14,866	16,988
Germany	20,628	26,751
Italy	5,544	19,660
Norway	70,437	76,844
Russia	6,623	8,293
Spain	4,395	1,250
Sweden	1,130	14,691
Other European Countries	2,884	6,804
Asiatic Countries	4,890	485
South & Central America	1,427	9,354
Unidentified	—	679

The causes of loss were as under—

Causes of loss.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.
Abandoned	8	99
Broken up or condemned	16	224
Burnt	11	20
Lost after collision	43	46
Foundered	18	47
Missing	8	60
Wrecked	126	434
Cause not ascertained	3	15

It should be observed that the above tables are compiled subject to correction from information received up to June, 1892, and may therefore be considered absolutely correct.

#### BITS OF INFORMATION.

New York has 4,000 Indians. China made the first suspension bridge. The first horse railroad was built in 1846. The Russians invented wood paving for streets.

There are 270 religions in the United Kingdom. Spain has fewer daily papers than any other European country.

The world seems never to have been without the art of bridge-building. In 1507 the name America was given to the Continent, and in 1520 it first appeared on a map.

There are still over 8,000 widows of veterans of the American Civil War, of 1812, on the pension-roll. An ice yacht has travelled a mile in 1.10, a horse in 1.35, a torpedo-boat in 1.50, a steam yacht in 2.12.

Window-glass was used in Italy in the churches in the Eleventh century and in English houses in 1557. The shortest street in the world is Manolo House street in the city of London. It is not more than a few yards in length.

Sixty thousand people in the Emerald Isle speak Irish only. There are 40,000 mud cabins in that country, consisting of but a single room. Portsmouth, N.H., bears the proud distinction as the place where the first newspaper was established in the United States. This was in 1766.

The highest viaduct in the world has just been erected in Bolivia, over the river Lea, 9,813 feet above the sea-level and 4,008 feet above the river.

In spite of its ice and severe cold, Labrador possesses a great number of flowering plants, fifty-nine ferns and over 250 species of mosses and lichens.

On January 1st, 1865, the Federal Army numbered 657,747 men present for duty; the Confederate Army at the same date numbered 429,675. There is no night in Norway during June, July and August. Daylight prevails at midnight, or rather a weird, subdued light, quite bright enough to read by.

It is probable that Cornelius Drebbel, a Hollander, in the year 1630 first discovered a method for indicating changes of temperature by means of a glass bulb.

Out of a total of 75,334 paupers in almshouses in the United States in the year covered by the eleventh census, 91.15 per cent. were white and 8.85 per cent. were colored.

The elevation of Denver, Col., being 5,370 feet—over one mile—above sea-level, makes the atmosphere rare, dry and clear, there being on an average less than six days each year without sunshine.

The largest number of men enlisted from the thirteen States of America during the Revolutionary War was 89,751 in 1776. The aggregate of troops furnished the Union Army in the war of 1861-65 was 2,320,272. According to a French statistician a man of fifty years has slept 6,000 days, worked 6,500 days, walked 800 days, amused himself 4,000 days, was eating 1,500 days, was sick 500 days. He ate 17,000 pounds of bread, 16,000 pounds of meat, 4,600 pounds of vegetables, eggs and fish, and drank 7,000 gallons of liquids.

Cato learned Greek at eight; Sophocles wrote his grand "Oedipus" and "Philoctetes" before the age of twenty; and Socrates bore off the prize of verse from his competitors when each had numbered more than four score years; and Theophrastus, at fourscore and ten, had begun his "Characters of Men." Goethe at Weimar, telling to the last, completed Faust when eighty years were past.—*Longfellow.*

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, is prescribed by Physicians all over the world. It is a remarkable remedy for Consumption, Strophula, and wasting diseases, and very palatable. Read the following:—"I have much pleasure in stating that I have tried 'Scott's Emulsion' in a case of impoverished blood, with scrofulous disease, and found it to be a very efficient preparation. It was taken without the least difficulty." T. W. PERKINS, 2nd, Loudship Park, Stoke Newington, N. Any Chemist can supply it. A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), Agents in Hongkong and China.

#### CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

5th October, 1892.—At 4 p.m.

5th October, 1892.—At 4 p.m.									
STATION.	Barometer reduced to sea level at 3 p.m.	Thermom- eter at 3 p.m.	Humidity.	Wind. Direction and Force.	Clouds.	Weather.	State of Sky at 8 a.m.	State of Sky at 4 p.m.	Remarks.
Wanchow	30.16	78	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Canton	30.16	78	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Nagasaki	30.16	78	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Shanghai	30.10	74	75	E	...	...	...	...	...
Peichow	30.10	74	75	E	...	...	...	...	...
Amoy	30.00	72	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Asping	30.00	72	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Swatow	30.04	70	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Hongkong	30.03	70	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Yueh-nan Fank	30.03	70	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Canton	30.00	70	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
Macao	30.00	70	75	NE	1	...	...	...	...
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